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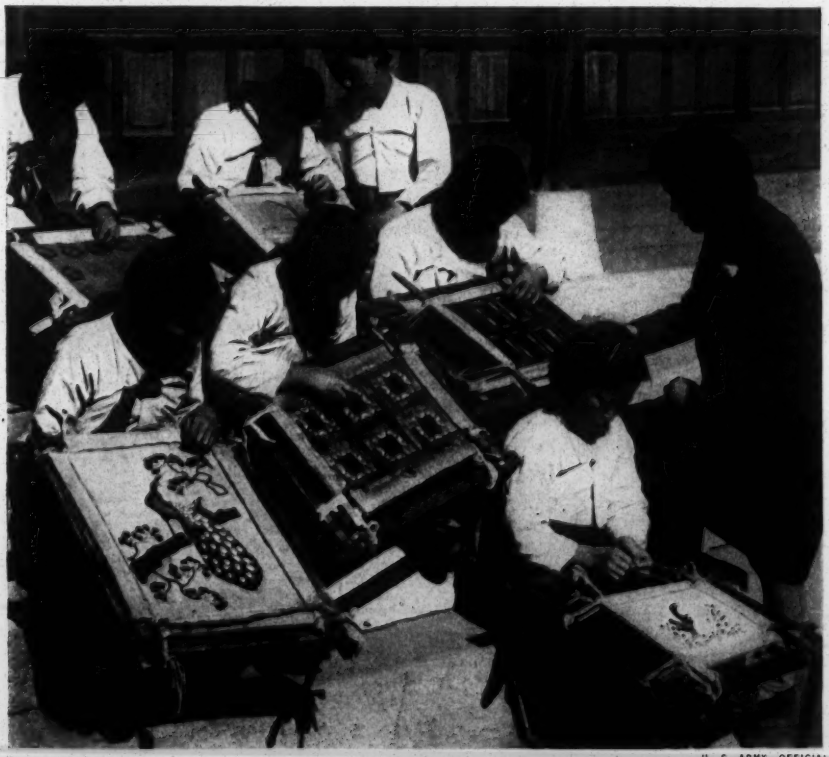

U. S. ARMY, OFFICIAL

BEFORE AGGRESSIVE ARMIES STRUCK, THESE SOUTH KOREAN GIRLS ENJOYED NEEDLEWORK

What teacher would not enjoy a class as concentrated and devoted to its work as this? The pupils are members of the 4-H Club, established in South Korea by the American Military Government. When war broke out 24,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20 were enrolled. These girls work in Kyonggi Province, south of Seoul and the 38th parallel (Bulletin No. 1).

Bulletin No. 1, October 1, 1951

Korea Contains Only Fraction of Parallel 38

THE Korean conflict has made the 38th parallel as familiar as the equator in the minds of millions of people. To many, however, it is strictly a waistband for Korea (illustration, cover)—a line associated only with the troubled Far East peninsula.

Like all other parallels and meridians, however, the 38th runs in an imaginary line completely around the world. It measures 19,658 miles in length. The part that crosses Korea—196 miles—is only one per cent of the whole.

Traverses United States

Few latitude lines span more land than the 38th parallel of north latitude. The United States, China, and the Soviet Union are among the dozen countries it traverses. These land areas add up to three-sevenths of its global circuit. Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean make it a ship's voyage the rest of the way. In sharp contrast, the equator's route is nearly four-fifths by ocean.

Seoul, Kaesong, and the Hwachon Dam have become world-known landmarks in the region where the 38th crosses central Korea. East across the Sea of Japan, the parallel cuts Japan's Honshu Island 160 miles north of Tokyo. Continuing eastward, some 5,200 miles of north Pacific Ocean without island interruption bring the 38th parallel to Drakes Bay on the California coast.

This is the bay, 30 miles northwest of San Francisco, that gave refuge in mid-1579 to Sir Francis Drake and his crew of the *Golden Hind*. The explorer named the region Nova Albion (New England) decades before a New England was named on America's Atlantic coast.

The parallel crosses a dozen of the 48 states. It pierces California's 1849 Gold Rush country, Yosemite National Park, and Mono Lake. Next come mines and ranches of southern Nevada and Utah, and 14,000-foot peaks of the Rockies near Pueblo, Colorado; then Kansas and Missouri fields of wheat and corn.

Pierces Spain and Mediterranean

Illinois stretches southward to the 38th. East of Evansville, Indiana, the Ohio River crosses it five times. Traversing Kentucky bluegrass country and West Virginia coal lands, it skirts Charlottesville, Virginia, and Crisfield, Maryland (illustration, next page). Then it makes its 3,660-mile leap across the Atlantic via the Azores to Sines, Portugal, birthplace of Vasco da Gama.

Córdoba and Murcia are historic southern Spanish cities and districts on the famous line. Then it traverses 700 miles of Mediterranean waters, touches the Punic War battlegrounds of Sicily's north coast, and Italy's boot toe.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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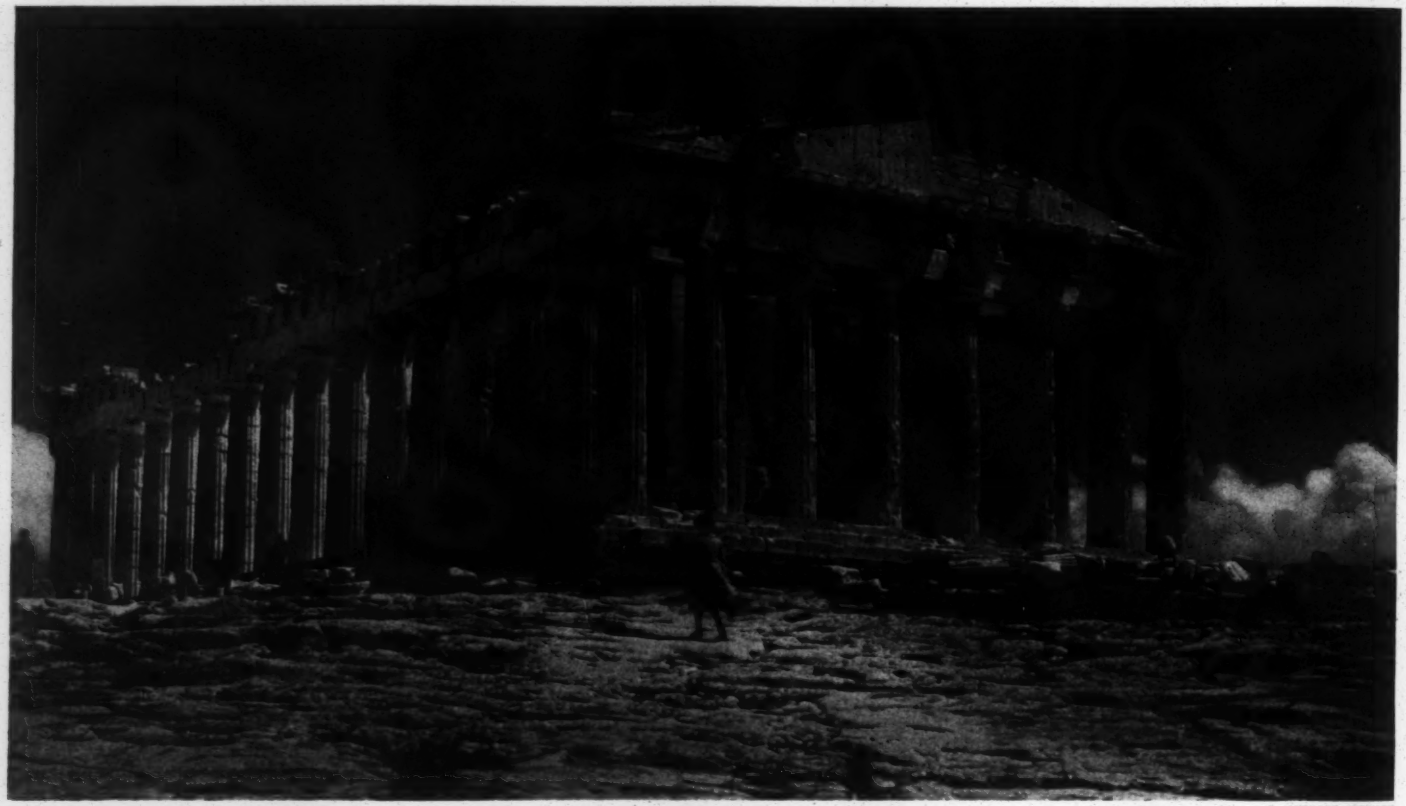

B. ANTHONY STEWART

FOR ALMOST 24 CENTURIES THE PARTHENON, THE WORLD'S MOST NOTED TEMPLE, HAS CROWNED ATHENS' ACROPOLIS, NEAR THE 38TH PARALLEL (Bulletin No. 1)

Now restored as nearly as possible to its original state, the Parthenon has had a long and varied career. Built at the peak of Athens' prosperity in the 5th century B.C., as a temple to the goddess Athena, it was transformed into a Christian church nearly 1,000 years later. When the Turks captured Athens in 1456, the Parthenon became a mosque. In 1687 the Venetian army bombarded the city and a shell explosion wrecked the superb building, which the Turks were then using as a powder magazine.

Bulletin No. 2, October 1, 1951

U. S. Defense Map May Add Suez Canal

IN a shrinking world, America's defense boundaries are expanding. The latest indication of this trend comes in reports from London that the United States is planning to cooperate with Great Britain in anchoring Middle East security to the Suez Canal. If given military and financial support, the undertaking could make the Mediterranean waterway equal to the Panama Canal on Uncle Sam's strategy map.

Desert-rimmed Suez shares a number of similarities with its lushly green counterpart in the Western Hemisphere. Both cut thousands of miles from sailing routes and carry enormous amounts of cargo vital to world trade and military preparedness. Both are extensively used by the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and, by nature, both are highly vulnerable to attack.

Connects Mediterranean and Red Seas

A big difference is that Suez waters remain at sea level, while the Panama Canal "climbs mountains" with a series of massive locks near each end.

The Suez Canal, slicing through Egyptian territory between the Mediterranean and Red seas, has its own special problems. Controlled by an international corporation, it has been the object of increasing nationalist pressures, along with demands for evacuation of British forces based there under the 20-year treaty signed in 1936.

In addition, since the Israel-Arab conflict, the canal has had frequent prominence in news headlines, as various nations have protested restrictions on Israel-bound shipping.

The question now has been submitted to the United Nations Security Council, recalling the original convention of 1888, whereby the canal was "always to be free and open . . . to every vessel of commerce or of war, without distinction of flag."

The completion of the Suez Canal in 1869, nearly half a century before the Panama short cut was opened, revolutionized world traffic. Along this route that was to serve as Britain's lifeline to the East, trade revived and new activities were stimulated. Shipments of Indian jute, rice, tea, and oilseeds boomed. Suez itself became an important distribution point, with the canal a vital link between Europe's industrial centers and the teeming populations and raw materials of the Orient.

Oil Big Item of Trade

Over the 104-mile ditch floats an endless procession of the raw and finished products of international trade—grain, coal, and manganese; cotton and textiles, rubber and tires; crude oil and aviation gas.

Oil is today the outstanding commodity in Suez shipping, despite predictions that the Middle East's new pipelines will eventually reduce business. Tankers last year carried nearly four-fifths of all north-bound cargo.

Through the years, traffic has fluctuated with world conditions, but the overall figures have steadily mounted. A new record was made in

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The 38th in Greece ferries the legended River Styx and passes close to Corinth (Kórinth) and Athens (Athínai; illustration, inside cover). Dodging Aegean islands, it borders the Menderes (Maeander) River south of Izmir (Smyrna) on the Turkish shore. This is the stream that gave English the word meander. It crosses the Turkish headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates en route to Tabriz, metropolis of Iranian Azerbaijan. After spanning the Caspian Sea, it finds itself alternately on both sides of the critical frontier between Russia on the north and Iran and Afghanistan on the south.

At the Russia-China border, the parallel climbs to its greatest height on the shoulders of Stalina and Kungur, both 25,000-foot peaks. Across China, it runs near the ancient silk route past Yarkand and the Takla Makan (desert). China's Great Wall severs the 38th near the cities of Wuwei, Ningsia, and Yulin. Beyond, the vast Great Plains of northeast China are pierced. The Yellow Sea coast is reached south of Tientsin, at the old mouth of the oft-rampaging Hwang Ho, or Yellow River. Across the Yellow Sea lies Korea.

NOTE: The route around the globe of the 38th parallel may be traced on the National Geographic Society's map of The World, and in greater detail on the maps showing the different countries through which it passes—Asia, Central Europe, Western Europe, and the United States of America. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, refer to the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine* in your library, for articles on the countries through which parallel 38 passes; see also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 6, 1950, "Parallels Often Made News as U. S. Developed."

A. AUBREY BODINE

FAR FROM THE STRIFE IN KOREA, THE 38TH PARALLEL LEAPS ACROSS PEACEFUL CHESAPEAKE BAY

Here a crabber displays a basket of bay beauties—succulent soft-shell crabs. He keeps them in shallow floating boxes until they have shed their hard shells, then packs and ships them to market. Other bay delicacies are Maryland diamondback terrapins and oysters.

Bulletin No. 3, October 1, 1951

Australia Plans Study of Great Barrier Reef

THE Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest-known coral expanse, stretches for 1,250 miles along Australia's northeast coast. Its mysteries again are attracting the attention of "sea farmers" and scientists. The State of Queensland, which the reef blocks from the open Pacific Ocean, is preparing to build a permanent marine research station on Heron Islet (illustration, next page) in the reef area.

Since the first scientific probing of the Great Barrier Reef by the British more than a century ago, thousands of its secrets have been unveiled. Countless more remain to be revealed.

Discovered by Captain Cook

The reef lies 20 to 150 miles off the Queensland shore. It covers approximately 80,000 square miles—about the area of Kansas. Pearl oysters and trochus shells grow in profusion. They are the basis of the mother-of-pearl trade. Edible varieties of bêche-de-mer, or sea cucumber, provide the dried product known commercially as trepang, soup ingredient popular with the Chinese. Many other products from the reef's vast curtain of coral and the life that evolves around it are marketed or await economic development.

The Great Barrier Reef was discovered by Captain James Cook in 1770. Having no knowledge of it on his charts, Cook sailed his ship, *H.M.S. Endeavour*, into the barrier, the jagged prongs of coral piercing the hull. The globe-girdling vessel was refloated after 50 tons of stores were thrown overboard, and limped to the mainland at the point where Cooktown now stands.

In a miracle of seamanship, the great English explorer navigated the unmarked channels from one end of the reef to the other. In his journal he noted the difficulties and delights of the coral cruise. At one point, he said "we had nothing but Providence and the small Assistance the Boats could give us to trust to." He discovered on the dry ground a fish which "leaped away as nimbly as a frog." This was the "tree-climbing" fish, the mudskipper, which basks in the sun and breathes through a primitive lung when out of water.

Now Fully Charted and Marked

On the mainland, Captain Cook "Saw an Animal something less than a greyhound . . . of a Mouse Colour . . . and swift of Foot" (the kangaroo).

Nineteen years later, Captain William Bligh, commander of *H.M.S. Bounty*, crossed the reef near the end of his incredible 4,000-mile open-boat voyage with the survivors of the mutiny that took place near Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. These adventures, plus the stories of numerous shipwrecks through the year, are still told around island campfires by those who visit the Great Barrier Reef today. For them, there is little fear of the dangers beneath the surface of the tropic sea. The coral labyrinth now is mapped and marked with lighthouses.

Responsible for the underwater wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef and other coral areas is the minute marine animal called the coral polyp.

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1950: 11,750 ship transits; goods weighing more than 72,500,000 tons.

British ships lead in the use of the Suez Canal, followed, more or less in order, by those of the United States, Norway, Panama, Italy, and France.

The channel has just been deepened and a new seven-and-a-half-mile by-pass canal dug. The improvements will speed traffic and provide greater safety along a waterway which has seen few and brief interruptions in eight decades of service—a waterway which is legally scheduled to come under full Egyptian control in 1968.

NOTE: The Suez Canal may be located on the Society's maps of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, and Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

For further information, see "The Suez Canal: Short Cut to Empires," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1935. (*Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to the present; $1.00 from 1930 through 1945; and $2.00 from 1912 through 1929. Earlier issues, when available, at varied prices.*)

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 15, 1947, "Port Said Is Sentinel at Suez's North Gate."

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

THE NORTHERN END OF THE SUEZ CANAL OPENS INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN AT PORT SAID, EGYPT

A steamer stands by ready to enter the 100-mile "ditch through the sand." Two fishing boats, with net between them, bear toward the west jetty. Seaward along the jetty rises a statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps, French diplomat and promoter who built the Suez Canal. Later, he started work on a Panama canal, but gave up in 1888, 24 years before the United States completed its project.

Bulletin No. 4, October 1, 1951

Old Custom Governs Thames Royal Swans

ENGLAND'S pet swans on the River Thames receive press notices that many a movie star might envy.

It's news even when they get a bath. It was a recent news event when more than 60 of the birds were given a shampoo after oil and bilge from ships on the river had discolored their snowy plumage.

Earlier in the year a report of mass scrubbing of swans by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was given prominent space in the newspapers. A number of swans had been contaminated by tar flowing into the river at Oxford. Lest the birds, in cleaning themselves, should die from eating the sticky black substance, they were hastily given a thorough shampooing.

King and Guilds Share Swan Ownership

Each year, in July, a traditional ceremony known as swan-upping takes place on the Thames. For days a procession of flag-decked skiffs cruises upstream from London carrying brightly costumed swan masters. Their job is to "up," or lift the birds out of the river, and mark the new young ones with the proper sign of ownership (illustration, next page).

In accordance with a custom centuries old, the swans on the Thames belong only to the king and to two of London's ancient guilds—the Dyers' and the Vintners' Companies.

The king's swans are unmarked, a reminder of the time when no subject could own the royal bird without license from the crown. Each of the two companies still uses its own swan-mark. A penknife nick on the right side of the beak distinguishes the Dyers' swans; nicks on each side of the beak indicate those of the Vintners.

There are now 600 or more swans on the Thames. Ownership of each season's additional crop of cygnets, or young swans, follows the mark of the brood's parents. In cases of mixed mating, the offspring are divided as evenly as possible between the owners of the parent birds.

Ferocious When Aroused

Britain's common domesticated swan, so familiar on the Thames and other rivers, ponds, and canals of the islands, is the Mute species, known to the naturalist as *Cygnus olor*. Its feathers are pure white and its neck long and slender. There is a knob at the base of its bill.

In its tame or semi-tame state, the species has no voice, or almost none. Occasionally, especially during the breeding season, the swan is said to give a barking snort, rattle, and hiss. Graceful as they are, these birds, with their strong wings and beaks, become fierce fighters when they are aroused.

The wild Mute swan is believed to have been domesticated in England in the 12th century or earlier. During the reign of Edward IV, nearly five centuries ago, it was ruled that "no person . . . except the king's son should have any swan-mark or game of swans of his own . . . except he hath freehold lands and tenements to the clear yearly value of five marks."

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It takes lime from sea water and deposits it in the form of limestone. The continued activity of a colony of billions of polyps eventually builds up a coral island or long reef.

A snub-nosed sea mammal, the good-natured dugong, browses in herds on the vast sea meadows about the Great Barrier Reef. The mother dugong is almost human in the care of her offspring, clasping it to her with a deft flipper when danger threatens. In early days, sailors often mistook the ungainly animal for a mermaid.

NOTE: The Great Barrier Reef is shown on the Society's map of Australia.

For additional information, see "Where Nature Runs Riot" and "Fantastic Dwellers in a Coral Fairyland" (15 color photographs), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1940; and "Great Barrier Reef and Its Isles," September, 1930.

J. B. HEAPS

A TANKLIKE TURTLE CROSSES HERON ISLET BEACH TO LAY HER EGGS

She may deposit 200 eggs in one nest. Sometimes islanders follow the tracks and rob the cache, whose contents they eat. This coral island in Australia's Great Barrier Reef is about a mile in circumference. It is the site of a projected permanent marine research station to be maintained by Australia's State of Queensland.

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Bulletin No. 5, October 1, 1951

Keystoners Consider Restoring French Asylum

FARM meadows now spread over the 2,400 acres in northeast Pennsylvania where the French village of Asylum (Azilum) sprang up in 1793.

Yet the strange story of that short-lived wilderness retreat of French exiles still holds a deep interest in the Keystone State. Officials recently suggested that the log cabin village should be restored, a project that would enhance the already strong appeal for travelers of the upper Susquehanna region (map, next page).

A Log Chateau for Marie Antoinette

The colony was founded by aristocratic refugees fleeing the bloodletting of the French Revolution. Its site was the land within a big horseshoe bend of the Susquehanna River, a few miles downstream from present-day Towanda and 40 air miles northwest of Scranton.

The Grande Maison, largest of Asylum's 50 log buildings, was built for ill-starred Marie Antoinette, tradition says. But the French queen died in the Reign of Terror without seeing her American home.

A few descendants of the builders still live in the neighborhood, and a few French place names dot the local map. Most of the Frenchmen made Asylum their home for a scant ten years, however, and returned to France under an amnesty proclaimed in 1802 by Napoleon. Virtually all trace of their village soon disappeared.

The refugees had been part of a brilliant French society, which prior to the French Revolution, set the fashion and conversation for the world. Many were deputies to the tradition-smashing French National Assembly of 1789 which voted to surrender numerous feudal rights and sought to establish a constitutional monarchy. Liberal, yet loyal to the crown, they stayed in France after the fall of the Bastille and until the Revolution's excesses forced them to flee for their lives.

A Far Cry from Home

The colony's founders were Vicomte Louis de Noailles, Lafayette's brother-in-law and brother-in-arms during the American Revolution; and Antoine Omer Talon, Parisian jurist. Robert Morris, American financier, acted as land agent.

An American wilderness was a far cry from the highly cultivated estates many of the colonists left behind in France. A passage from Talleyrand's *Memoirs* illustrates the Gallic attitude toward the wilderness. The French statesman visited Asylum in 1795, riding a horse north from Philadelphia through the thick woods. He called out occasionally to his companion to make sure they were not becoming separated. "When I cried, 'So-and-so, are you here?' and my companion replied, 'Unfortunately I am, my Lord,' I could not help laughing."

In summer, lady colonists planned picnics and boating parties along the scenic Susquehanna, danced in outdoor pavilions, and organized fetes under riverside trees. In winter, the Grande Maison was the scene of concerts, chess and card parties, and amateur dramatics.

This brought about the custom of licensing. For centuries, possession of a swan-mark, the keeping of the royal birds, and the privilege of eating one's own roast swan were expensive luxuries. It was also a valuable source of revenue for the crown.

NOTE: The course of the Thames may be traced on the Society's map of the British Isles.

For additional information on swans, see "Far-Flying Wild Fowl and Their Foes," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1934; and "Fowls of Forest and Stream Tamed by Man," March, 1930.

TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY

COUNTING THE CYGNETS AFTER THEY'RE HATCHED IS THE SWAN MASTER'S ANNUAL CHORE

On the River Thames near Windsor, the king's swan master and his striped-shirted assistants corner a group of royal swans between the riverbank and a fleet of skiffs, to make the annual count. This traditional scoring takes place each August. Cygnets (swan fledglings) which have been born since the previous "upping" are marked to show ownership. The cornered swans present a confused cluster of long slender necks, a characteristic by which the swan is easily distinguished from his less spectacular cousin, the duck.

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All was not play, however. The royalists faced their program of community building with vigor. Houses were built, papered, shingled, and fitted with glass windows, then a novelty in America. Gardens, orchards, and vineyards were planted; blooded bulls and sheep imported. Roads were built into the forests. Trees were felled for building, and for the tar and potash industries.

But most of the colonists had left family, wealth, ancestral homes, and hearts in France. When Napoleon made it safe for them to return, they were content to bid farewell to their Penn's-woods Asylum.

NOTE: Asylum may be located on the Society's map of the Northeastern United States. For additional information on Asylum, see "Down the Susquehanna by Canoe," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1950.

DRAWN BY H. S. OLIVER AND I. E. ALLEMAN

THE SITE OF FRENCH ASYLUM (top center) IS ONLY ONE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA'S ATTRACTIONS

The scenic river touches Pennsylvania in the Great Bend area where Joseph Smith, prophet of Mormonism, lived in his early days. Reentering the state near Tioga Point, it passes scenes of Indian warfare and early settlement. In the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre area, coal mining and industry are paramount. At Sunbury, the West Branch, the timber stream of days gone by, flows in. Then the combined river moves majestically toward Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, and its mouth, a few miles south of Mason and Dixon's Line.